

DETAILED ACTION

Reason for allowance

1. Claims 5, 6, 8-14, 16, 18-30 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: allowance of claims 1, 5-6, 8-20 is indicated because none of the prior art of record, alone or in combination, appears to teach, or fairly suggest or render obvious a safety coupling apparatus which comprises:

a radially outwardly-extending collar located radially outwardly of the axial groove, and a radially outwardly-extending flange which is spaced from the collar to define a radially inwardly-extending recess there between on the second coupling part;

defining an axial groove which has an open end facing the first coupling part, said axial groove providing said second coupling part with inner and outer legs, and locking means which engage said inner and outer legs of said second coupling part to prevent divergence thereof;

as recited in claims 29 and 30.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JIANYING ATKISSON whose telephone number is (571)270-7740. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday. 8:00-4:00.

Art Unit: 3742

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Yuen can be reached on (571)-272-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JIANYING ATKISSON/
Examiner, Art Unit 3742
4/8/11